

DRAFT
TOWN OF DARIEN
COMMISSION ON AGING
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 18, 2011

ATTENDANCE: Joseph Pankowski, Chair; Mary McCarthy, Pat Morgan, Amy Squyres, Tom Valentino, Robin Woods, Charlie England

ABSENT: Jennifer Geddes, Ron Heinbaugh

OTHERS: Beth Paris, Senior Center Coordinator; Olive Hauser, Director of Social Services; Jayme Stevenson, Selectmen's Liaison to the COA

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Pankowski called to order the regular meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Pankowski said that he would like to re-arrange the order of the agenda items if everyone is in agreement because there is no Quorum. The Board so agreed.

SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Ms. Hauser reported that the renter's rebate program for the disabled and elderly, is a good program and the recipients receive a decent rebate. Applications are being taken. However, the money has not yet been approved, and a letter is being sent out to each that states that their calculation has not yet been finalized.

She said that there has been much probate activity.

SENIOR CENTER REPORT

Ms. Paris reported that there were 54 volunteers who attended the Volunteers Celebration on April 27. The 'Living Well' program is almost over and was well attended. She said that a \$1,000 stipend was received. \$200 was needed for books. The majority of attendees were town residents.

There was an evening program with an attorney as the speaker that garnered 26 attendees. It was well received.

Air quality monitoring begins at the Senior Center today.

Mr. Valentino inquired if asbestos was found in the building. Ms. Paris said no. Mr. Pankowski added that if it is kept enclosed it is okay, but when disturbed during construction it 'free flows'. Ms. Paris said that the tiles are checked frequently and when necessary are replaced with vinyl tiles.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

- ** MS. MORGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL MINUTES.**
- ** MR. ENGLAND SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. England stated that Aging in Place (AIP) and Gallivant are a step closer to becoming an integrated organization. They recently raised \$200,000. Mr. England asked if anyone knows what their goal is. Ms. Squyres said it is \$350,000. She mentioned that they are in the process of hiring a Director.

Mr. Pankowski asked if any commission member would be interested in being a liaison to AIP. Mr. England said that he will assume this role. Mr. Pankowski said that it entails reflecting back what the COA does and to ascertain from AIP what the COA can do to assist them.

Ms. Woods addressed the 'shuffle' and said that AIP will get a front office when the new Senior Center is set up. She said that they traveled to the Groton Senior Center and it was outstanding. She feels positive about the architect that was chosen. The architect has energy and is making observations already on his plan for the lower level at Town Hall. She said that, for one, he would like to dismantle the overhang which makes the entrance dark. She said that seniors prefer natural light. Plans for a library are being considered.

Ms. Squyres asked about the costs. Ms. Stevenson said that the design comes first and then they can estimate the costs. Norm Guimond will keep the RTM members apprised during the summer so that when they reconvene in September, they have knowledge as to what has occurred.

Ms. Stevenson said that there will be more energy-efficient systems in place and no additional square footage. Ms. Squyres asked about personnel changes. Ms. Stevenson said none are planned. She said that they will draw on a greater cadre of volunteers.

Ms. Squyres talked about writing a letter to the Darien Times editor and will work with Ms. Stevenson. Ms. Squyres said that she will take a casual approach and will write as an individual rather than as a member of the COA. Ms. Stevenson said she would like to meet with the architects. Mr. Pankowski suggested that the letter be sent to the Darien Times soon as school is out mid-June, and residents leave for the summer. Ms. McCarthy noted that the operating costs will be similar or better than they are now.

Ms. Stevenson said that the genesis of this project was to create efficiencies.

In closing, Mr. England reminded all of the Father's Day Car Show on June 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Tilley Pond Park.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. VALENTINO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MS. WOODS SECONDED.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

Next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 15, 2011, at 9:00 a.m., Room 119, Darien Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck,
Recording Secretary

Attachment (Senior Center Report)

Darien Senior Activities Center

Commission on Aging Report

May 18, 2011

Respectfully Submitted: Beth Paris, Coordinator

The Volunteer Celebration on April 27th was very well attended and appreciated-54 volunteers attended. The month of May is offering varied activities and programs of interest. The Darien Garden Club had its biggest attendance of the season 18 participants the season ends on high. They will return again in October-May. DHS CORE group will offer "Craft and Conversation" activity May 18th.

Programs of special note: Balance and Fall Prevention Series; Living Well Workshop continued from April; 3 Week Opera Series; Historical Series also 3 Weeks focusing on Military History and a Financial Classes on Safe Investments and Maximizing Retirement Income. The Alzheimer's 4 Part Caregiver Course was a huge success with 35 different caregivers attending over the 4 week presentation. This Course had not been offered for 9 years in our area. Westport Senior Center Program Specialist contacted the Association after hearing how successful it had been at our Center.

Ongoing Work in Progress: Programming for summer and fall
Monthly Newsletter/Publicity
Planning Senior Senior Prom
Meetings and Plans with Architect
Caregiver Support
Room usage chart
Statistic Reporting

Building Project: Working on Woodshop reorganization
Grease Trap Inspection and Procedure
Advance Cleaning Upgrade
Gift Shop reorganization and storage
Room Program Schematic
Hygenix air testing

May Program Highlights: 2nd Blood Pressure Screening
4th Flower Arranging
4th 12th 19th 26th Live Well Program
11th 18th 25th Who's Afraid of Opera?
16th Historical Series "Battle of Midway"
18th DHS Core Group "Chat and Crafts"
23rd Historical Series "Air War over Germany"
24th Darien Library Book Discussion
25th Senior Men Songsters
27th Sketching Class begins 6 weeks
30th Closed Memorial Day

31st Historical Series "Pursuit of Battleship Bismarck"

Meetings: Social Services May 1st; SWCAA Advisory Board May 11th ; AIP Coordinator as needed; May 16th Ana Nelson Alzheimer's Association; May 16th AIP-Gallivant Board meeting

Building Issues

Over 30 wholes patched on roof; all roof drains have been cleaned out-helped w/major leaks

Front Window damage continues-still leaking

Light in lower level handicap bathroom not responding regular to switch

Member hit post and beam fence replace beam needed

Worked with Advance cleaning to transition new staff assigned

Stair treds breaking away from cement foundation 3 dangerous reported to PW